

April 22, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Kim Watkins  
730 Colonial Court  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Dear Madames and Sirs:

I am writing in support of petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. As a law student at the Dickinson School of Law, I recently read some cases regarding the treatment of farm animals. Particularly stunning to me was that animals who are too sick to even stand are moved about pushed with tractors or even dragged with chains causing further injury to the suffering animals. A large body of research indicates that such animals should not even be allowed to be available for human consumption as they pose numerous health risks. In addition to the many policy and humane reasons for stopping this practice, prohibiting the marketing of downed animals will not cause undue economic hardship as such animals comprise a small percentage of animals slaughtered. I think that granting the petition is an excellent and much needed step in moving towards a more civilized and less primitive treatment of our fellow living beings which is sorely needed in our society. Thank you for your consideration.

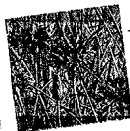
Sincerely,

*Kim Watkins*

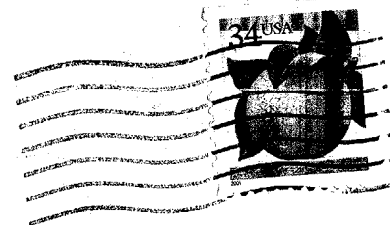
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98P-0151



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